

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: March 13, 2002  
BILL NO. AB 731  
OR  
SUBJECT stolen license  
plates

Tami Rongstad, on  
(NAME) behalf of Rep.  
(Street Address or Route Number) Jeff Stone  
(City and Zip Code)

## (Representing)

Speaking in Favor: ☒  
Speaking Against: ☐  
Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking: ☐  
Registering Against:  
but not speaking: ☐  
Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against: ☐

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: SP 731  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

LORALEE BRUMMUND  
(NAME) DOT  
(Street Address or Route Number)  
(City and Zip Code)

## (Representing)

Speaking in Favor: ☐  
Speaking Against: ☐  
Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking: ☐  
Registering Against:  
but not speaking: ☐  
on several questions  
Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against: ☐

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 03-13-02  
BILL NO. AB 731  
OR  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Sen. Brian Burke  
(NAME)  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Milwaukee  
(City and Zip Code)  
3rd Senate District  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor: ☐  
Speaking Against: ☐  
Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking: ☒  
Registering Against:  
but not speaking: ☐  
Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against: ☐

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: March 13, 2002  
BILL NO. AB 731  
OR  
SUBJECT stolen license  
plates

Rep. Jeff Stone  
(NAME)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

## (Representing)

Speaking in Favor: ☐  
Speaking Against: ☐  
Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking: ☒  
Registering Against:  
but not speaking: ☐  
Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against: ☐

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

AB 731



## JEFF STONE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
82ND DISTRICT

Chairman Breske and members of the committee; thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Rep. Jeff Stone in favor of Assembly Bill 731.

AB 731 seeks to toughen our laws regarding stolen license plates, and make it easier to prosecute license plate theft. This proposal was suggested by the Milwaukee Police Department as a way to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Milwaukee. Rep. Stone worked with the city of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Police Department to draft legislation that would address this very real problem. From 1995 through November of 2001, Milwaukee realized over 37,000 incidents of license plate theft. That level of license plate theft is itself a problem, resulting in real headaches for the victim-owners of those license plates in the form of unpaid parking citations, traffic accidents and identification with other offenses. License plate theft is crime that facilitates other crimes—resale of stolen plates, car theft, and illegal drug commerce, for example.

Assembly Bill 731 creates a specific prohibition against displaying a stolen license plate, possessing a stolen license plate, and selling or offering to sell a stolen license plate. Currently it is illegal only to display, transfer or offer to sell a stolen license plate.

Additionally, current law makes prosecution of stolen license plate offenses difficult because the police are faced with the burden of proving that the person driving a vehicle with a stolen plate knew the plate was stolen. AB 731 creates a rebuttable presumption that the person charged with stolen license plate crimes knew the plates were stolen. A defendant may raise an affirmative defense that he or she did not know, and could not, by reasonable effort, have known that the registration plates were stolen.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended adoption of a substitute amendment, which was adopted by the Assembly as a whole. Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 731 is the same as AB 731, except that the substitute amendment applies to a registration plate, insert tag, decal or other evidence of registration, while the bill applies only to a registration plate.

I again thank the Chairman and members of the committee for meeting today to consider Assembly Bill 731, and urge a vote of concurrence, despite the close of our regular legislative session.

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